

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 17-33 and 43-51 are pending in the present application. No amendments to the claims have been made by this Response. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 103, Alleged Obviousness

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8, 17-33 and 43-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jain et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,085,101) in view of Lee et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,161,008). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, which is representative of the other rejected independent claims 17, 25 and 43, with regard to similarly recited subject matter, reads as follows:

1. A method of redirecting a call from a data processing system to another address, comprising the steps of:
 - receiving at a data processing system a registration notice of an incoming call from a server;
 - responsive to receiving the registration notice, receiving user input for identifying a new address of another device, other than the data processing system, to which the call is to be routed; and
 - responsive to receiving the user input, transmitting the new address to which the call is to be redirected. (emphasis added)

Neither Jain nor Lee, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest receiving user input for identifying a new address of another device in response to receiving a registration notice or transmitting a new address to which the call is to be redirected in response to receiving the user input, as recited in claim 1 and similar features in claims 17, 25 and 43.

Jain is directed to a system for multicasting a single message to a plurality of recipients. With the system of Jain, a message provider calls a multicast service, the network server queries the message provider and obtains the message and recipient addresses, the network server then contacts some or all of the recipients and transmits the message to those recipients that were contacted (see column 3, lines 48-68). Jain further

teaches that the multicasting functionality of the Jain system may be used in conjunction with known communication network services such as personal location service and call forwarding. Call forwarding, as is described in the Jain reference (column 2, lines 24-26), involves receiving a call with a designation of a destination telephone number and automatically consulting stored information to identify an alternate number to which calls to the destination telephone number are to be forwarded. Personal location service is a known service of cellular telephone systems in which a cell or registration area in which a mobile terminal is currently located is identified from existing information in the wireless communication infrastructure (column 13, lines 59-61).

The Office Action admits, however, that Jain does not teach user input for identifying a new address of another device other than the data processing system to which the call is to be routed, as recited in independent claim 1 and similar features in the other independent claims 17, 25 and 43 (see Final Office Action, page 3). But, the Office Action alleges that Lee teaches this feature at column 2, line 65 to column 3, line 6, Figure 4, and column 11, line 33 to column 12, line 48. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Lee is directed to a personal mobility service for identifying a terminal to which a communication should be routed. With the personal mobility service of Lee, four sources of information are used to determine to which of a plurality of terminals registered as being associated with a user, a communication should be sent. The system of Lee uses a user profile created by a user, a terminal network usage profile, last activity information, and terminal capability information to identify a terminal to which a communication should be sent (see column 8, line 45 to column 9, line 30). The user profile is a set of preferences entered by the user indicating which terminal identifier (TID) to provide at what time of the day (see column 11, line 65 to column 12, line 2).

Thus, the information used by Lee is information that is pre-set in the system. That is, the user must establish the user profile prior to the communication being sent to the system of Lee in order for the user profile to be used as a mechanism for determining which terminal to send the communication to. Similarly, other information, i.e. network usage information, terminal capability information, and last activity information, is information that is established prior to when the communication comes into the system of Lee.

Contrary to the teachings of Lee, the claimed invention allows a user, at the time that a registration notice is received, to provide user input to indicate a new address to which the incoming call or communication is to be redirected. Thus, the user may decide at the time the registration notice is received for an incoming call, which other device to send the call to. With the system of Lee, the user must establish where calls are to be routed a priori, i.e. beforehand and the routing of the call is performed automatically based on this prior existing user profile, network usage information, last activity information, and terminal capability information.

To illustrate this point further, take the example provided in Applicant's disclosure on page 12 of the present specification. Assume that a husband receives a notification of an incoming call to his wireless telephone. The husband can look at the display of his wireless telephone to see the notification and determine that the call is for his wife. The husband may then supply user input, e.g., the telephone number for his wife's work, to thereby redirect the call to his wife's work phone, her wireless phone, or the like.

Since Lee performs all of its functionality based on pre-existing information, there is no ability to receive user input to redirect a call to another device in response to receiving a registration notice of an incoming call, there is no ability to transmit the address to which the call is to be redirected in response to receiving the user input. Also, Lee does not transmit any redirection information after the call has been routed to a terminal. Moreover, even if the system of Lee could be used to redirect calls, such redirection would not be based on a user's input being received in response to receiving a registration notice of an incoming call but would rather be based on pre-existing information as with the initial routing of the call.

Thus, in summary, the Office Action admits that Jain does not teach receiving user input for identifying a new address of another device in response to receiving a registration notice of an incoming call or transmitting the new address to which the call is to be redirected in response to receiving the user input.

Similar distinctions over Jain exist in the other independent claims 17, 25 and 43. For example, claim 17 recites "means, responsive to receiving the registration notice, for receiving user input for identifying a new address of another device, other than the data

processing system, to which the call is to be routed” (emphasis added). Claim 25 recites “receiving a response from the called party’s preferred location, the response including a new address identified from user input received at the called party’s preferred location in response to receiving the registration notification at the called party’s preferred location” (emphasis added). Similarly, claim 43 recites “means for receiving a response from the called party’s preferred location, the response including a new address identified from user input received at the called party’s preferred location in response to receiving the registration notification at the called party’s preferred location” (emphasis added).

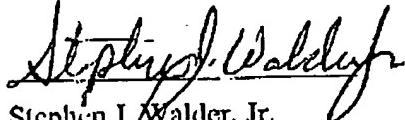
In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Jain nor Lee, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the features of independent claims 1, 17, 25 and 43. At least by virtue of their dependency on claims 1, 17, 25 and 43, respectively, neither Jain nor Lee, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the features of dependent claims 2-8, 18-24, 26-33, and 44-51. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-8, 17-33, and 43-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

II. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over Jain and Lee and is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: June 9, 2003



Stephen J. Walder, Jr.
Reg. No. 41,534
Carstens, Yee & Cahoon, LLP
P.O. Box 802334
Dallas, TX 75380
(972) 367-2001
Attorney for Applicants